

Assembly Bill No. 1761

CHAPTER 801

An act to add and repeal Sections 51871, 51872, 51873, and 51874 of, and to add and repeal the heading of Article 15 (commencing with Section 51870.5) to Chapter 5 of Part 28 of, the Education Code, relating to education technology, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor September 23, 1998. Filed
with Secretary of State September 24, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1761, Sweeney. Education technology.

Existing law establishes the Digital High School Education Technology Grant Program of 1997, consisting of one-time installation grants and ongoing technology support and staff training grants, to provide all high school pupils with basic computer skills, to improve pupil achievement, and to increase collaboration among high schools, private industry, postsecondary education institutions, and community organizations. Matching resources are required to be provided at high schools receiving grants. Existing law requires that each high school that receives a technology installation grant also receive an annual technology support and staff training grant commencing in the second fiscal year following the year in which it receives the installation grant.

This bill would require the State Department of Education to establish the California Technology Assistance Project, to be composed of regional consortia, that would administer, with 3-year grant funding awarded by the State Board of Education, a regionalized network of technical assistance to schools and school districts on the implementation of education technology and work collaboratively with school districts and county offices of education in order to meet locally defined technology-based needs. The bill would also require the department to provide statewide coordination and evaluation of technology programs and resources and advance the use of technology in the curriculum and in the administration of elementary and secondary schools.

The bill would require the State Board of Education to award grants to fund a school district or county office of education in each region of the California Technology Assistance Project to act as the lead agency to administer the service of that region. Grant funding would be provided through the annual Budget Act.

The bill would authorize school districts, county offices of education, and state special schools to apply to the State Board of

Education to participate in grant programs related to education technology. The provisions of the bill would be repealed on January 1, 2004.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The heading of Article 15 (commencing with Section 51870.5) is added to Chapter 5 of Part 28 of the Education Code, to read:

Article 15. Education Technology

SEC. 2. Section 51871 is added to Article 15 (commencing with Section 51870.5) of Chapter 5 of Part 28 of the Education Code, to read:

51871. (a) The California Technology Assistance Project shall be established by the State Department of Education to administer a regionalized network of technical assistance to schools and school districts on the implementation of education technology as set forth in policies of the State Board of Education. The California Technology Assistance Project shall be composed of regional consortia that will work collaboratively with school districts and county offices of education in order to meet locally defined technology-based needs, as identified in the certified technology plans for their client school districts, including, but not necessarily limited to, all of the following areas:

- (1) Staff development.
- (2) Learning resources.
- (3) Hardware.
- (4) Telecommunications infrastructure.
- (5) Technical assistance to school districts in developing a support system to operate and maintain an education technology infrastructure, including improving pupil recordkeeping and tracking related to pupil instruction.
- (6) Coordination with other federal, state, and local programs.
- (7) Funding.

(b) The State Board of Education shall award grants to fund a school district or county office of education in each region of the California Technology Assistance Project to act as the lead agency to administer the services of that region. The term of a grant awarded pursuant to this section may not exceed three years. Grant funding may be awarded and received for subsequent terms of three years as provided in this section. The lead agency shall be chosen through a process based on all of the following:

- (1) Knowledge of technology.



(2) Technology planning and technical assistance.

(3) A proven record of success in providing staff development in technology and curriculum integration.

(4) A demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with school districts, county offices of education, and businesses in the region.

(5) The ability to deliver services specified in this article to all school districts and county offices of education in their region.

(6) The degree of support for the application by school districts and county offices of education in the region.

(7) Review of the annual report of the services provided by the lead agency submitted to the State Board of Education and school districts and county offices of education within the California Technology Assistance Project region. School districts and county offices of education within a California Technology Assistance Project region shall have the opportunity to comment on the report.

(c) To receive funding for the second and third year of a grant awarded pursuant to subdivision (b), a lead agency shall submit an annual report to the State Board of Education for approval that describes the services provided, the persons served, and the funds expended for those services in the prior year. School districts and county offices of education within the California Technology Assistance Project region shall have an opportunity to comment on the report. The State Department of Education shall release grant funding for a second or third year only after the annual report has been approved by the State Board of Education.

(d) Funding to support the regional education technology services provided by the California Technology Assistance Project shall be provided through the annual Budget Act. Funding of the regional lead agencies shall be approved by the State Board of Education based on adopted guidelines.

SEC. 3. Section 51872 is added to Article 15 (commencing with Section 51870.5) of Chapter 5 of Part 28 of the Education Code, to read:

51872. (a) The State Department of Education shall administer this article. The duties of the State Department of Education shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

(1) Assisting the State Board of Education on education technology plans, policies, programs, and activities.

(2) Providing for the statewide coordination, planning, and evaluation of education technology programs and resources.

(3) Advancing the use of technology in the curriculum and in the administration of elementary and secondary schools.

(b) Funding to support the activities described in subdivision (a), including educational technology services which are more efficiently and effectively delivered at a statewide level, shall be provided to the State Department of Education through the annual Budget Act. Based upon recommendations from the California Technology

Assistance Project and other interested parties, the State Board of Education shall fund school districts and county offices of education to provide centralized statewide educational technology services that address locally defined needs but that are more efficiently and effectively provided on a statewide basis.

SEC. 4. Section 51873 is added to Article 15 (commencing with Section 51870.5) of Chapter 5 of Part 28 of the Education Code, to read:

51873. School districts, county offices of education, and state special schools may apply to the State Board of Education to participate in grant programs related to education technology, including, but not limited to, staff development, research and development, and evaluation and dissemination of education technology resources.

SEC. 5. Section 51874 is added to Article 15 (commencing with Section 51870.5) of Chapter 5 of Part 28 of the Education Code, to read:

51874. Sections 51871, 51872, 51873, this section, and the heading of this article shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2004, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2004, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 6. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to continue to implement the California Technology Assistance Project established pursuant to Section 51871 of the Education Code, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

